



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

2012 Volume 8, Issue 5

May 2012 (Whole # 88)

Dale Miller Completes the Liberty Seated Dime Top 100 and Ultimate Variety Sets !

**Completing Liberty Seated Dime Top 100 and Ultimate Variety Sets
Dale Miller's Journey
By Dale Miller and Gerry Fortin**

Collecting Liberty Seated dime varieties is not for the faint of heart. Numismatic passion and perseverance are personal characteristics associated with individuals who attempt and complete major collecting objectives. Dale Miller is one of those individuals. On March 31 of this year, I received an email from Dale requesting an update to his Top 100 and Ultimate Seated Dime variety sets at www.seateddimevarieties.com. In the past, I received numerous requests from Dale for open registry updates and watched him systematically completing these collections. But on March 31, the request was most significant as Dale had finally located an 1861 Type I dime with rusted obverse die. This variety is designated as F-101 and completed Dale's Top 100 and Ultimate variety sets.

When defining the Seated Dime Top 100 and Ultimate varieties set back in the 2005-2007 timeframe, I believed that few if any individuals would take the time to build such complex and difficult sets. Only variety specialists could understand the challenge and the amount of effort. The Liberty Seated Dime Ultimate set is a compilation of the Top 100 Seated Dime varieties and previously defined mintmark size and minor reverse design variations throughout the series. After the Top 100 Varieties set announcement in 2005, I received feedback about not including individual collectors' favorite mintmark size variations or other notable hub changes. Unfortunately, there were not enough slots in a Top 100 Varieties set to include mintmark size variations, hubbing changes and the host of popular repunched dates, shattered dies, misplaced dates and significant die marriages. This issue remained open until I observed Bill Bugert constructing an "Ultimate Set" for the half dollar series and decided to follow suit for the dimes. During construction of the Liberty Seated Half Dollar open registry, Bill Bugert defined The Ultimate Seated Half Dollar set as a nearly impossible collecting challenge. His Ultimate Variety Set included 318 of the most desirable half dollar varieties. Borrowing from Bill's Ultimate set approach, a similar "Ultimate Collection" for Liberty Seated dimes totaling 210 listings was defined. I seriously doubted that any collector would complete the Ultimate Set back in 2007. On March 31, 2012, Dale Miller proved that assumption to be incorrect.

Following are Dale's thoughts on simultaneously completing his Top 100 and Ultimate Variety sets. Please join me in congratulating Dale for reaching this amazing numismatic goal!

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The E-Gobrecht is a twice award winning informal electronic publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). The LSCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the attributions of the Liberty Seated Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this email newsletter from various sources free of charge as a general service to the membership and others with this numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the E-Gobrecht is available to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information is included at the bottom of the last page.



Auction News

by Jim Gray, LSCC #664

The **Heritage** Sale and Platinum Night featured a lovely pastel toned 1838-O dime in MS64 for \$8,950 and a VF30 CAC 1846 hit \$1,380. Three 1860-O dimes graded VF20, VF25 CAC, and AU55 realized \$2,300, \$2,185, and a strong \$7,475. The second piece was graded CAC despite a large black spot on Liberty's head while the last piece was well struck and nicely toned. An 1885-S in MS62 was well struck, untuned, and looking finer, rose to \$6,900.

An 1851-O quarter in XF40 hit \$3,220 while an 1856-S graded VF25 sold for \$920. Toned 1857-S quarters graded XF40 and 45 hammered for \$863 and \$1,380. An original 1858-S realized \$1,495 in VF25 while a VF35 1861-S was worth \$2,070. A magnificent 1867-S in MS64 was worth the \$23,139 it realized. A light gray 1872-CC in VG10 sold for \$2530.

An 1842-O Small Date half with XF details, but scratched, hit \$1,495. A dark gray 1870-CC with light porosity and graded AU50 was still worth \$18,400. An XF 1872-CC with murky toning sold for \$2,070. An 1873 NA open 3 graded AU58, and hard to better, rang the bell for \$34,500. An 1874-CC with XF/AU details but with serious rim damage, eked out \$1,380. 1878-CC halves in VG8 and VG10 sold for \$1,150 and \$1,610.

An original Gobrecht Dollar from the 12/36 issue graded Pr55 sold for \$19,550 and a Pr62 from the same issue rang the bell for \$29,900. An 1871-CC dollar with AU details and obverse scratches, but not bad, was worth \$7,475 while an attractive duplicate graded AU55 soared to \$20,700.

Upcoming LSCC Events

May 4, 2012, **Manchester, NH**, Coin and Currency Expo, Radisson Hotel, LSCC Regional Meeting, 2 PM, location TBD.

May 11, 2012, **Denver, CO**, ANA National Money Show, Colorado Convention Center, LSCC Regional Meeting and Educational Program, 9 AM, room 706.

June 1, 2012, **Long Beach, CA**, Long Beach Coins, Stamp and Collectables Expo, LSCC Regional Meeting, 9 AM, room TBD.



Variety Sets (Continued from page 1)

Gerry Fortin, April 22, 2012

Dale Miller's Journey

On July 7, 2006, I purchased an 1874-CC dime in AG3 from Heritage, completing my Liberty Seated dime date and mint-mark set. At about the same time, Gerry sent me an email, asking me how I was coming along on varieties. I had to admit that I didn't have many and I was reluctant to start because I know what it would lead to. Once I start something, I have a very strong drive to finish it. But I soon succumbed, and took on the challenge of the Top 100 Liberty Seated Dime Varieties and the 210 coin Ultimate Set. I needed the help of many people to complete these sets and thank everyone who helped in some way.

For me, the open registry was a strong motivator to make this effort. It gave me the freedom to include coins across the grade spectrum, both raw and certified. I also could not have taken this on without the web-book, which I needed to do the attributions. The coins in my Ultimate Set range from AG3 for the 1874-CC to NGC MS67 for the 1888 misplaced digits, averaging about VF30. While willing to accept clearly attributable varieties in any state of preservation, I have made upgrades when possible.

I started by looking through all my Liberty Seated dimes and identifying varieties I already had and entered them in the open registry. I then worked on finding the Top 100 Varieties and the Ultimate Set coins not in the Top 100 at the same time. Completing the sets took hard work, some resources, and a good amount of luck. I looked for varieties in many places, but a few sources were the most important:

- 1) Dick Osburn's website: I found the largest fast moving inventory of attributed pieces there.
- 2) Gerry Fortin's For Sale List: Many of his duplicates were nice circulated examples of the varieties for me.
- 3) Bill Mackrides' eBay auctions and website: I bought many coins from him before he passed on, including the 1874 Polished Arrows that he cherry-picked from eBay.
- 4) Gerry Fortin and Jason Feldman each decided to make difficult varieties available to other collectors as they shifted to other goals. I was a major buyer in both of these offerings.
- 5) Other online dealers, especially Brian Greer, Gene Bruder, and Lynn Ourso.
- 6) Coin shows, from local to national.

7) Auctions, mainly eBay and Heritage.

Cherry-picking on eBay was absolutely essential. I spent hundreds of hours searching on eBay and located at least 30-40 pieces in that manner. The problem this solved is that far fewer attributed pieces after about 1870 are offered for sale. Yes, well known varieties like an 1891-O Medium O over Horizontal O can be found offered for sale, but lesser known varieties are just not seen. There are just so many varieties on later dates and insufficient premiums on most to be worthwhile for sellers to attribute. On common dates, I sometimes looked at hundreds to find the one I needed. Sometimes, I could tell for sure from the pictures; other times I could only narrow it down to being likely enough to buy, and I had hits and misses. My last coin for the sets was an 1861 Type 1, rusted die, that I cherry-picked on eBay for \$22.50 on March 26, 2012, so this was about a six year project. Its VF20 details were sufficient for the attribution, but it was downgraded to VG10 for rough surfaces and rim damage. Not a pretty coin, but exciting after looking at a few hundred 1861s.

The cherry-picking on eBay reminded me of the old days as a teenager looking through rolls of pennies for a 1955-S. Even though I was looking at coins 120 to 175 years old, it almost had the feel of looking through coins in circulation.

Someday there may be coin books for the Top 100 and Ultimate Sets, but I needed my own storage system. I obtained two blank Dansco albums with dime-sized openings and labeled one for the Top 100 and the other for the remaining coins in the Ultimate Set. I also wrote fuller descriptions of the variety coins on sheets that I taped onto the inside front and back covers of each album, including their rarity rating and the condition of the coin in my collection. For variety coins in my basic date and mint-mark set or in a slab, I prepared a piece of paper large enough to cover the coin's hole with a notation as to its location and condition.

The 1839 pie-shaped shattered obverse, the 1865 proof with 180 degree reverse die rotation, and the 1874 polished arrows are, in my opinion, the three most difficult to obtain of the 210 coins in the Ultimate Set. I have a story for each. Gerry was able to broker a deal for me on the 1839, which was later graded G6 by PCGS. Jason sold me the 1865 proof in ANACS 62. This is a beautiful coin but I believe he has another that's even better. I've seen very few offered. Gerry also mediated the purchase of the 1874 polished arrows in AU55 after Bill Mackrides cherry-picked it on eBay. I paid a lot for it and some people

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Regional News

by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

It is so nice to be writing the May Regional News column from my study overlooking several weeks of landscaping efforts. After neglecting the Maine property for years due to

other priorities, it was decided to attack the overgrown trees and vegetations and bring order to the front acreage. Regardless of the soreness, I did manage to lose eight pounds and that protruding waist line you may have noticed on coin show images seems to be under control. Unfortunately, May 4 brings me back to China and the challenge will be to hold the weight loss.

May brings LSCC regional meetings to Manchester, New Hampshire and Denver, Colorado within a week's time. Our regional directors continue to work altruistically to host regional meetings in the Northeast and Western regions after a successful April 20 regional meeting during the Central States Numismatic Society convention.

On May 4, Dennis Fortier and John Frost will once again join forces and host combined LSCC and BCCS events at the New Hampshire Coin and Currency Expo. Our dynamic duo will share an exhibition table and administer a regional meeting for both clubs. Dennis and John typically sign up 3-5

new club members at the smaller regional shows and we do wish then good fortune on May 4 for recruiting new members.

Shifting our attention to the Western region on May 11, Craig Eberhart will host a regional meeting at the ANA National Money Show being held in Denver. Craig plans a Friday May 11 meeting at 9:00 AM in Room 706 and will give a presentation entitled, "Gobrecht's No Drapery Designs: Type Coin Cinderellas." Since the start of the regional meeting program, this is the first time that the LSCC will hold a meeting at a spring ANA event. I'm sure attendees will enjoy Craig well researched numismatic lecture and the opportunity to meet and share thoughts about collecting Liberty Seated coinage.

I would also like to advise *E-Gobrecht* readers that an informal LSCC regional meeting will be held at the Long Beach Coins, Stamp and Collectables Expo on June 1 at 9:00am. Craig will also host this meeting but no formal presentations are planned. Rather, this is an opportunity for club members to meet, socialize and conduct one on one discussion.

Variety Sets (Continued from page 3)

April 21, 2012

said that more would show up and the price would come way down, but it's been a few years since the purchase and none have appeared on the market.

I've taken on many coin collecting challenges over 50 years, but this has been the most difficult and the most satisfying. If I tried it in various alternative realities, I don't think I would complete it more than one time out of ten. This time I had lots of good luck and even better friends who took interest in me, so I was able to make my own little bit of coin collecting history.

Dale Miller



Northeast U.S. Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC

At the annual Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club (PVCC) coin show (held on April 29, 2012 in Norwich, CT) the LSCC and Barber Coin Collector Society teamed up to show rare and exciting Liberty Seated and Barber coinage. John Frost and Todd Mazzola manned the table and report high attendee interest in the selections offered for viewing. Among the items shown (bottom photo) were one of the finest known 1874-CC Railroad Track reverse Half Dollars, and a nearly complete set of Liberty Seated Dollars that were well matched and beautiful. Many thanks to both members for their efforts on behalf of the club. Next up the Manchester, NH show. We have high hopes as there were 20 people at the joint LSCC/BCCS meeting last year.



LSCC member Todd Mazzola (left both photos) and John Frost at the PVCC coin show on April 29, 2012.





The Budget Collector: Seated Deals & Steals Under a Hundred Dollars

Twenty-fifth in a Series

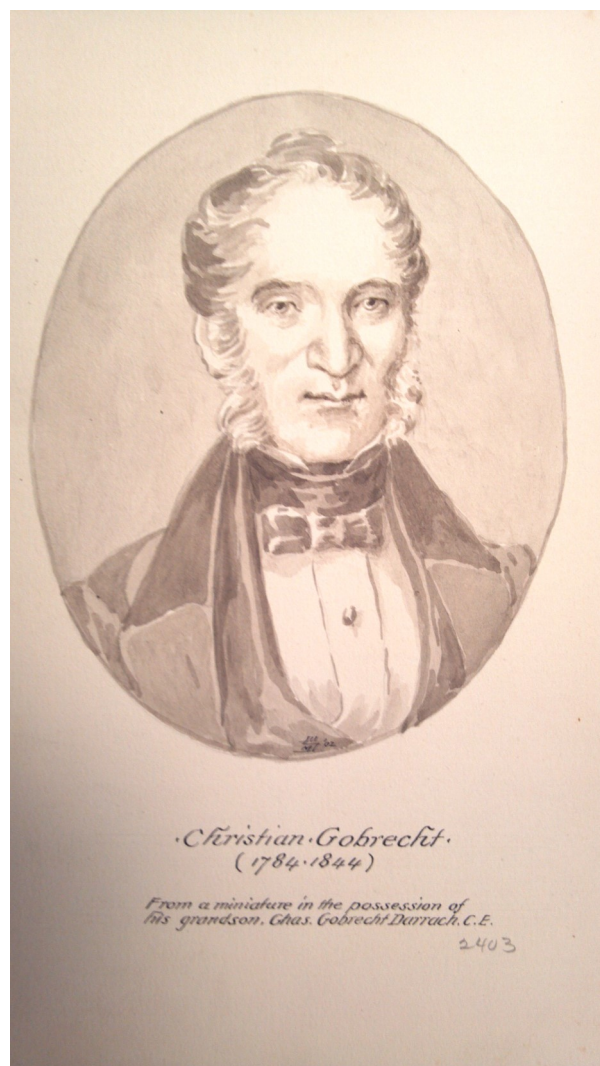
by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

[Editor's comment: This is Len's 25th article in the Budget Collector series. I know you've enjoyed them as much as I have. Great work, Len!]

This month we have a few assorted items of Gobrechtiana. The first is a recent eBay lot, a complete set of the Hanover Numismatic Society silver medals commemorating works of Christian Gobrecht. The series ran from 1966 - 1981, and some time after that a custom Capital Plastics-type holder was made to house the entire set. This is the first such sale of an entire set I have ever seen, and a lucky bidder took home the set at a surprisingly small advance over the melt value. Dennis Fortier and Bill Bugert have done research in the Hanover archives and we anxiously await publication of ad-

ditional information regarding the formation of this series of medals.

A recent research trip to Philadelphia uncovered a new image of Christian Gobrecht, drawn c. 1900 and based on a miniature of Gobrecht which has appeared elsewhere (for example, in Gobrecht



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Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

The 1852 quarter is a scarce coin in any grade. Though it becomes more difficult to find with increasing grade, it is actually a bit more available than many early P-mints in mint state and less available in circulated condition. This is presumably because the issue had little time to circulate prior to the weight change of 1853 at which time most were either hoarded or melted. The 1852 Philadelphia issue also features a quite rare and interesting die variety, the 1852/52 repunched date.



The 1852/52 (Briggs 1-A) is a particularly desirable variety for a number of reasons: 1) it is rare, 2) the repunching is obvious, 3) the date position is unique so that attribution is clear even for low grade coins, and 4) the only two known proofs were struck from the same dies as the 1852/52 business strike coins. In addition to the obviously repunched numerals, attribution of the 1852/52 is determined by noting that the right side of the one lines up with shield lines 6/7 as opposed to the only other obverse die which has a date further to the left (right side of 1 lines up with shield line 5).

Though one of only two known die pairs, the 1852/52 represents only about 10% to 15% of all 1852 quarters. The 1852/52 accounted for 2 of 21 examples reported in the 1993 LSCC survey and 10 of 46 examples in the 2007 survey. A study of 40

recent sales of 1852 quarters in the Heritage Auction archive revealed six examples (including the proof coin sold as part of the Kaufman set in 2008 - Heritage ANA 8/2008:1823 at \$138,000, ex. Pittman).

There are also two known examples of the 1852/52 quarter with significant die rotation. One specimen, discovered prior to publication of *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters* (1991), has a 90 degree rotation. Another example discovered more recently has a rotation of about 45 degrees.

John McCloskey Interviewed by CoinWeek

Rich Uhrich reports: I just saw this article on John McCloskey on *CoinWeek*:

<http://www.coinweek.com/news/people-in-the-news/coin-clubs/the-professors-passion-john-mccloskey-takes-seated-liberty-coinage-seriously/>

[It's an Al Doyle interview of LSCC President John McCloskey. Check it out—it is interesting. Ed.]



Budget Collector (Continued from page 6)

Dollars Illustrated by the Collection of Julius Korein, M.D., published by Heritage in 2009). A caption reads "From a miniature in the possession of his grandson, Chas. Gobrecht Darrach." Darrach was a grandson of Gobrecht who donated certain Gobrecht papers to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1906. Also found was a trade card of Christian Gobrecht, with the inscription "C. Gobrecht / Die Sinker / and / Seal Engraver / 220 / Walnut St. / Philadelphia." Gobrecht, in his pre-Mint days, engraved dies used for embossing cards and book covers. This, his personal calling card, is a skillful tribute to the engraver. Illustrated here is the familiar eagle with talons bearing arrows and leaves, all surrounded by a glory (evocative of Gobrecht's 1836 pattern gold dollar and later essayed on the 1853 arrows & rays coinage), while profiles of Lafayette and Washington grace the lower portion of the card. Gobrecht no doubt impressed many examples of this trade card, presumably one is out there waiting for a knowledgeable collector to find it!





Subscriber Correspondence

From Don Bennett: *[I inadvertently omitted this letter from last month's issue of the E-Gobrecht. My apologies to Don.—Ed.]* **1859-O "key" date:** Recently I came across an 1859 half dollar minted at New Orleans in which the image of a key has been punched into its obverse. Please see the attached scans. I would like to share this with you and *E-Gobrecht* readers who may be familiar with sort of alteration. Were coins like these used to grant entry into a secret club or as a means to identify a fellow secessionist prior to the Civil War? I would love to know the real story behind such a coin.



From John Frost: Yesterday, April 1, 2012, the Willimantic/Mansfield coin show was a lot of fun. Dennis Fortier and I staffed the table, and we got two new LSCC and one new BCCS members. Not as many as I hoped, but a lot of collector traffic at this show, and I expect we'll get more members next year (as they keep seeing us).

Also, for the Manchester, NH show [on May 4th], Dennis looks more likely to be able to attend Friday's joint meeting and table as well, waiting final confirmation from work. Just wanted to let you both know -- kind of embarrassing reading my name so many times in *E-Gobrecht* for these events -- just wanted to make sure you both know Dennis and I are working together closely on these things (he is, after all the NE Region guy). But I am happy to help both clubs wherever I can. :-)

From Dennis Fortier: John and I set up jointly for the LSCC and the BCCS at the April 1, 2012 Willimantic/Mansfield coin show. We had some nice coins on display (including John's new 1875-S Twenty Cent Branch Mint Proof) as well as the *Gobrecht Journal* Collective Volumes. John signed up two new members (checks on the way to Len) for the LSCC while I was busy talking to others. The display was well received by the public and we had a great time as always.



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Larry Briggs Rare Coins. New updated website with many photos—check us out at: www.larrybriggsrarecoins.com

David Kahn Rare Coins. Please check out my website—I have an easy to use website and list many original bust and seated coins with excellent photos. www.davidkahnrarecoins.com

1879-1890 Quarters and Halves Wanted to Buy: I'm looking for Philadelphia mint 1879-1890 quarters and halves, grades 35-45 only. Must be absolutely original, never cleaned or dipped. What do you have? Denis Loring, 561-207-6180, dwlor-ing@aol.com.

Seated and Bust Coinage for Sale: Rich Uhrich Rare U. S. Coins Inc. specializes in Bust and Seated silver coins, especially scarce and rare dates and varieties. His website www.richuhrichcoins.com lists his complete inventory, has pictures of coins over \$100, and is updated frequently. He offers a newsletter which notifies you when significant new purchases are available and offers his take on the coin market in general as well as Bust and Seated silver. He also actively services want lists. He is an authorized PCGS and NGC dealer and a member of ANA, LSCC, EAC, and JRCS. Contact him at richuhrich-coins@comcast.net, 717-533-2935 or 717-579-8238.

Dr. Eugene Bruder is constantly updating his website, www.typecoins.com, which features a nice selection of bust and seated material for sale. Pictures are generally available for all coins, and can be

obtained if not posted. He will also take consignments for exposure at shows and the website. He attends most major shows, and will try to accommodate want lists. You can reach him at 530-894-0922 or email at: gene@typecoins.com.

Brian Greer, well known dealer, collector, and numismatist, has an extensive listing of many new dates and varieties listed on his website. Check them out at: <http://www.briangreerrarecoins.com/>

Rare Coins for Sale: Since 1979, David Lawrence Rare Coins has specialized in Seated and Barber coinage for collectors. Please visit our web site for 6,000+ offerings of U.S. & World coins, currency, and stamps for sale and auction. We are also interested in buying or selling your coins at auction. <http://www.davidlawrence.com> or phone 1-800-776-0560, members: PNG, ANA (life), FUN, CSNS

Cuds, Cuds and more Cuds: I am interested in purchasing cuds, major die breaks, and shattered dies on Liberty Seated Quarters. Cuds on other U.S. series of interest too. Also wanted are major reverse rotations on all U.S. series. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth at pcmdmp@msn.com.

Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted: I am looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at jason@seated.org

Wanted to Buy: Nice, problem-free bust and seated material. We specialize in affordable collector coins. Puro's Coins and Jewelry, web: www.vtcoins.com, email: puro@vtcoins.com, phone: 1-800-655-1327.

Seated Dime Die Varieties Wanted: I am paying high prices for Seated Dimes with major cuds, die cracks, and rotated reverses. Contact David Thomas at davethomas333@hotmail.com or 1-949-929-2830.



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LSCC

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC Membership Information. Dues remain bargain priced at \$20 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal*/mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC President.

Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the Editor, *E-Gobrecht*.

To be added or removed from the *E-Gobrecht* mailing list, send an email message with the words "Subscribe/Unsubscribe" in the subject line of the message to: wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Wanted: Material for this newsletter!

Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.

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